

SARS Update for Travel Coordinators June 4, 2003

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Brief Review of SARS Info

- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (viral respiratory infection)
- Worldwide over 8000 cases and over 700 deaths
- Spread through droplets/close contact (sharing eating/drinking utensils, kissing, conversations w/in 3 feet, care of family member)
- Signs/symptoms: fever $>100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ (38°C), chills, cough, shortness of breath, headache, joint pain, malaise, diarrhea

CDC Travel Classifications

- A ***travel advisory*** recommends deferring nonessential travel to affected areas.
- A ***travel alert*** does not advise against travel, but informs travelers of disease outbreak and provides advice about specific precautions.

Affected Locations

- **Mainland China:** CDC travel advisory in place. Exit screenings for travelers. JLab currently not approving travel.
- **Taiwan:** CDC travel advisory in place. Still reporting new cases, but numbers are declining. Exit screenings for travelers.
- **Canada:** CDC travel alert reinstated for Toronto due to recent resurgence of cases. Exit screening for travelers from Toronto.
- **Singapore:** CDC travel alert in place. Exit screenings for travelers.

Affected Locations, cont'd.

- **Hong Kong:** CDC travel alert in place. Exit screening for travelers.
- **Vietnam:** no current cases. CDC travel alert removed.
- **Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand:** small number of cases previously reported. No current alerts or advisories.
- **Russia:** first confirmed case reported 5/29/03.

JLab Travel Procedures

- Travel Coordinators distribute Medical Services' web site information on SARS to all employees requesting travel to any destination (see handout).
- Travel Office informs Medical Services of all employees requesting travel to China, Taiwan, Canada, Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines or Thailand.

JLab Travel Procedures, con't.

- Medical Services contacts employee prior to travel to review information. CDC recommends travelers to affected areas take thermometer, alcohol hand gel, gloves, and household disinfectant.
- Medical Services contacts employee after return from travel re: any known exposures, signs/symptoms, current updates, monitoring (temp check 2x/day for 10 days).

Additional Info

- Anyone with known exposure or symptoms should see a physician and notify Medical Services.
- Employees returning from travel are not required to quarantine themselves *unless* known exposure or symptoms occur.
- For more information:
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/
www.who.int/csr/sars/en/index.html